

July 2018 Congressional Reception

FAQs

Helpful Details to Know!

Date: Wednesday, July 25th, 2018

Location: Dirksen Senate Auditorium, Washington D.C.

Time: 12 PM to 4 PM (6AM to 8 PM if on bus)

What is the cost of this event?

- The registration includes a \$10 bus confirmation fee for round trip bus transportation from one of six locations in New Jersey to D.C. Your \$10 cost helps defray the expenses of the event and will make the Congressional Reception an even bigger success than last year! If you choose to travel on your own, there is no cost, however you still must register online.

What is the goal of the Congressional Reception?

- The goal for this year's Congressional Reception is to urge our New Jersey's delegation to make "No Housing Cuts." The final fiscal year (FY) 2018 spending bill included a significant increase in funding for affordable housing. But we must remain vigilant to ensure that there are no devastating housing cuts in the FY 2019 HUD budget. The message of "No Housing Cuts" is more critical than ever. We need to protect HUD funding that keeps Americans in safe and affordable housing.

Who will speak at the Congressional Reception?

- We are looking for 2-3 impact speakers for each congressional district and for the two Senate offices. The impact speakers individuals who have been impacted by homelessness. We are still working to finalize speakers in many districts and appreciate any suggestions you might have.

What will I be doing at the event if I am not a speaker?

- If you are not a speaker, your role in the reception is still very important. We are trying to fill a room of passionate people to show our elected officials know that we will not stand for housing cuts. You will have an opportunity to be in a group photo with your congressional representative and both Senators. Those who will not be speaking will have a chance to talk to other like minded people from all over the state about this issue. We are hopeful that everyone will get a chance to meet their elected officials.

What should I do when I meet my elected official or their staff person?

- The best course of action (whether you agree or disagree with their position) is to be polite.

What should I wear?

- Please remember this is a very long day so please dress comfortably when choosing your clothing and shoes. Please remember that Washington DC in July can get very hot

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and humid. The day will start early and is likely to end late. There will be some walking and we will be sitting on a bus for a total of about 5-7 hours round trip (Depending on where you are departing from in NJ).

Will there be a lot of walking or stairs?

- The venue is on the first floor so there will be minimal stairs. The buses will drop us off as close to the venue as possible but we may have to walk.

When should I show up if I do not plan on taking the bus?

- The earliest you can show up at the venue is 11:30. Please plan for that.

I am interested in donating food/drinks for the bus, what should I bring?

- We hope to be able to supply water and snacks for everyone on the bus.
- We are seeking both water and food donations, please reach out to us if your organization is in a position to make a donation.
- Please also feel free to bring your own personal snacks and water.

Will the bus make any stops?

- We hope to have the bus make a stop on each leg of the trip. But the stop on the trip down to DC may be dependent on traffic. There is a restroom on the bus. These stops allowed people to stretch their legs and get something else to eat. We plan to make a stop on the way home. The stop on the way home will be to allow people to purchase dinner if they choose to.

What food and beverages are provided?

- We're hopeful that we will be able to get donations for snacks on the bus. A boxed lunch and drinks will be provided at the event venue.

Will my Congressperson attend the Congressional Reception?

- We hope that as the event grows closer, we can all work to encourage Senators Booker and Menendez and all 12 House Members to attend. And we need your help in doing this! We will have tools that you can use to reach out to them through social media and email. Let us know that you are interested in helping and we will help you!

What should I expect once my bus gets to DC?

- The buses will drop us off about 10-15 minutes from the Dirksen Senate Building. We will walk from the bus drop off to the Dirksen Building and golf cart rides are available if needed. Please reach out to us if you will need assistance. The event is scheduled to start at 12 p.m. and run until 4 p.m.
- Prior to the event beginning, the box lunch and beverages will be served. The event will open with remarks from our national partners. Then a master of ceremony will begin

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the event and introduce as they arrive, our elected officials. The impact speakers and policy speakers will give their remarks while their elected officials are in attendance. The event will conclude by 4:00 p.m. and we will walk back to the buses and depart for New Jersey. Again, transportation by golf cart will be available for those who need assistance.

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